

## CRW 1301: Beginning Poetry Writing

**Instructor:** Ashley Tisdale

**Section:** 8060, T 9-11 TUR 2354

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**Office Hours:** Rolfs 501, T 8 and by appointment

**Comment [TH1]:** Formal office hours must be noted in the syllabus before the first day of class.

### Required Texts

- *An Introduction to Poetry*, Kennedy & Gioia (13<sup>th</sup> Edition) [978-0205686124]
- *The Triggering Town: Lectures and Essays on Poetry and Writing*, Richard Hugo [978-0393338720]
- *The Poet's Companion: A Guide to the Pleasures of Writing Poetry*, Kim Addonizio [978-0393316544]

**Comment [TH2]:** Include ISBNs – helps insure that the right edition is purchased.

Supplemental readings will be assigned along the way and will be provided by the instructor. Please hang on to all handouts for we will occasionally revisit them later in the semester.

### Course Description and Objectives

This course will provide a critical overview of the process of writing poetry, as well as introducing students to the existing canon. An important element to this course is learning how to really *read* a poem, which we will do often with close consideration. This will prepare us for our own poems, in which we will exercise that same kind of thoughtfulness.

In the first half of the semester, you will be asked to participate in discussions about other poet's work using the particular vocabulary we'll learn. The workshop portion of our class really takes off in the second half when you will participate in discussions about the poems of your peers. You'll want to spend the same meticulous time on each.

This combined Seminar/Workshop approach will help us to understand poetry on a critical level. Not only will we learn to read poetry and write our own poems, but we will also learn how to write about writing.

This is a General Education course providing student learning outcomes listed in the Undergraduate Catalog. For more information, see <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/general-educationrequirement.aspx#learning>

### Assignments & Grading

This class meets the University's 6000 word requirement *in addition to* the 10 poems you'll write throughout the semester. A revision of 6 poems is required for the final portfolio, as well as my original copies of all 10 of your poems (the first draft).

**Every-Other-Weekly Response Papers** 5 at 500 words (2500 words total)

Every other week (or how our schedule goes), you'll be responsible for submitting a response paper based on something we recently did that moved you in any way. Perhaps it inspired a poem of yours, or maybe you flat out disagreed with it. You might even like to examine a poem in further detail. The topic is your choice, as long as it's relevant to our discussion. Though these will not require an argument structure, they must be well organized and thoughtfully written with correct grammar.

**The Big Paper** (2000 words)

While you get to be creative with the structure of your response papers, you will be required to write one critical essay near the middle-end of the semester. Details will be provided as we approach that time.

**Portfolio** (800 words)

You will be responsible for composing ten poems throughout the duration of this course based on prompts that I give. As we transition into the workshop portion of the course, I expect you to bring copies for each member of the class. Failure to do so will result in deducted points. Poems will not be graded, but will be evaluated on a check plus-check-check minus system. (A check plus = 10 points; A check = 7 points; A check minus = 5 points.) The final portfolio however, will be graded, as it will be your time to show me what you've taken in from our discussion. It will consist of six revisions, and an 800 word reflection of your work throughout this course will serve as an introduction to your portfolio. One individual conference is required before the due date.

**Anthology** (700 words)

Finally, you will create an anthology of 8-10 different poems from other poets, consisting of a single theme. You may choose the theme, but be prepared to defend your choice through a 700 word introduction in which you'll eloquently describe the common threads between the poems and why this is significant.

*Grading*

Assignment	Point Value
Poem Completion	100 points (10 x 10)
Weekly Response Papers	250 (5 x 50)
Essay	200
Anthology	200
Portfolio	250
	Total: 1,000 points

Participation is not graded, but it is considered AND HIGHLY RECOMMENDED for getting the most out of this course.

*Grading Rubric*

“A” –A paper at this grade was done at an extraordinarily high-quality level. The work demonstrates an in-depth understanding of the concepts covered, and shows a thoughtful amount of creativity. This paper shows all the qualities listed below for a “B”, but goes beyond what was asked in terms of developing content and analysis. Papers at this level

are usually free of all grammatical errors (papers with more than two errors cannot receive an “A”).

“B” –A paper at this grade has done what was asked of the assignment at a high-quality level. The work is complete and may need further revision, but works at an elementary level. The style is straightforward and the organization is logical. It may contain grammatical errors, but it is otherwise readable.

“C” –A paper at this grade has done what was asked of the assignment. The work may need significant revision, but is complete in content and has logical organization. This paper may contain more grammatical errors that render it unreadable at times.

“D” –A paper at this grade has completed the assignment at level of poor quality. The work needs significant revision. It is usually incomplete and the organization doesn’t make sense. Attention to style is nonexistent.

“E” –A paper that does not address the needs of the assignment or shows little effort will result in a failing grade.

*I allow one revision from one of the weekly papers. Late papers will not be accepted. If you are expecting to be absent, be sure to email me your work the day of class AND bring a hardcopy to class the following week. I allow one extension IF you come to me much in advance.*

#### *Grading Scale*

<b>A</b> 4.0 93-100%	<b>C</b> 2.0 73-76%
<b>A-</b> 3.67 90-92%	<b>C-</b> 1.67 70-72%
<b>B+</b> 3.33 87-89%	<b>D+</b> 1.33 67-69%
<b>B</b> 3.0 83-86%	<b>D</b> 1.0 63-66%
<b>B-</b> 2.67 80-82%	<b>D-</b> 0.67 60-62%
<b>C+</b> 2.33 77-79%	<b>E</b> 0.00 0-59%

#### **Attendance**

Because this class meets once a week, only two absences will be allowed. A third absence will result in the drop of a full letter grade. I do not tolerate tardiness—please arrive on time as it ensures the success of our class discussions. Arriving late disrupts the entire class. Tardiness will be defined as being more than 5 minutes late. Two instances of this will result in an absence. Please come prepared. Forgetting your materials, using a computer or phone, or disrupting your peers will count as a tardiness and will have you dismissed from the class.

#### *Final Grade Appeals*

Students may appeal a final grade by filling out a form available from Carla Blount, Program Assistant. Grade appeals may result in a lower, higher, or unchanged grade.

## Schedule

\*This schedule is subject to change. All readings next to a date are to be prepared for that particular day, not for the following week.

<b>Week 1 8/27</b>	Introduction In Class: TT <i>Writing Off the Subject</i>
<b>Week 2 9/3</b>	How to Approach a Poem K&G 1, PC <i>Writing &amp; Knowing</i> , TT <i>The Triggering Town</i>
<b>Week 3 9/10</b>	Voices, Persons, Tones K&G 2, PC <i>Voice &amp; Style</i> <b>Weekly Response Paper #1 Due</b> <i>Poem 1</i>
<b>Week 4 9/17</b>	Images and Words K&G 3 & 5, PC <i>Images</i> <i>Poem 2</i>
<b>Week 5 9/24</b>	Figures of Speech K&G 6, PC <i>Simile &amp; Metaphor</i> <b>Weekly Response Paper #2 Due</b> <i>Poem 3</i>
<b>Week 6 10/1</b>	Songs and Sounds K&G 7 & 8, PC <i>The Music of the Line</i> <i>Poem 4</i>
<b>Week 7 10/8</b>	Rhythm and Meter K&G 9, <b>Weekly Response Paper #3 Due</b> <i>Poem 5</i>
<b>Week 8 10/15</b>	Forms, Writing about Poetry K&G 10, 23 <i>Poem 6</i>
<b>Week 9 10/22</b>	Symbols K&G 12 <b>Weekly Response Paper #4 Due</b> <i>Poem 7</i>

<b>Week 10 10/29</b>	Translations K&G 15 <i>Poem 8</i>
<b>Week 11 11/5</b>	Myths, Narratives, Dreams K&G 13, PC <i>Stop Making Sense: Dreams and Experiments</i> <b>Essay Due</b>
<b>Week 12 11/12</b>	Prose Poems and Misc K&G 11 <i>Poem 9</i>
<b>Week 13 11/19</b>	Visions and Revisions PC <i>The Energy of Revision</i> , Reread Triggering Town <b>Weekly Response Paper #5 Due</b> <i>Poem 10</i>
<b>Week 14 11/26</b>	CONFERENCES
<b>Week 15 12/3</b>	Conclusion <b>Portfolios Due, Anthologies Due</b>

### **University Policies**

#### *Statement of Composition*

This course can satisfy the UF General Education requirement for Composition. For more information, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/general-education-requirement.aspx>

#### *Statement of Writing requirement (WR)*

This course can provide 6000 words toward fulfillment of the UF requirement for writing. For more information, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/writing-and-math-requirement.aspx>

#### *Student Disability Accommodations*

The Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office provides information and support regarding accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

*Harassment*

UF provides an educational and working environment that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment for its students, staff, and faculty. For more about UF policies regarding harassment, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/sexual/>

*Academic Honesty*

All students must abide by the Student Honor Code. For more information about academic honesty, including definitions of plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>